Allegation	Information
Lubricants for NEC are being purchased from a private party paying higher price, whereas the earlier practice was to purchase lubricants from Assam Oil Company, Digboi at cheap price.	**Small quantities of lubricants were purchased from a private party on trial basis at a price cheaper than the price of Assam Oil Division. At present NEC is purchasing lubricants from M/s Bharat Shell and IBP at a cheaper price than Assam Oil Division.**
NEC is spending more than Rs. 18 lakhs a year in hiring payloaders instead of purchasing one payloader at the present price of Rs. 20 lakhs.	**NEC has its own payloaders for loading of coal into tippers. Only in emergency situations payloaders are hired from private contractors.**
No exploration during the last 12 years for opencast mining is Simsong Project at Tura is being done though the project was executed at a cost of Rs. 12 crores.	**The exploratory scheme for Simsong was not for opencast mining but for underground mining. The project was stalled since the kidnapping of an officer of NEC concerned with the project in April, 1999 for a period of 52 days. The scheme is now slated to be revised.**

Scrapping of coal modernisation project

1863. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled "World Bank scraps Rs. 20,000 crores coal modernization project of CIL";

(b) whether the coal demand projection has been slashed in mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Plan, as reported; and

(c) if so, the actual demand projection for the Ninth and Tenth Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The total size of the coal modernization project (Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project) of Coal India Limited is not Rs. 20,000 crores but US$ 1695 million out of which US$ 1030 million was to be co-financed by the World Bank (IBRD) and the Japan Bank for International Co-operation on 50:50 ratio. The World Bank did not cancel the loan but Coal India Limited itself requested World Bank and JBIC for the cancellation of the balance uncommitted part of the loan because of financial reasons.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The coal demand projection was modified in mid-term appraisal of Ninth plan of the Planning Commission. The original demand of coal for the terminal year of the Ninth Plan was originally estimated by Planning Commission at 412.20 million tonnes but it has now been re-estimated at 370.80 million tonnes at the midterm appraisal of the coal demand. As per the Working Group on Coal and Lignite constituted by the Planning Commission, the demand for coal in India would be 653.00 million tonnes in the terminal year of the Tenth Plan.

Shifting of CIL Headquarters from Calcutta to Ranchi

†1864. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for shifting the Headquarters of the Coal India Limited from Calcutta to Ranchi is pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, what action is being contemplated by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.